WITKZ

The Spark Gap

MARCH 1985

Book X Vol III

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

ANNOUNCEMENT

There are a number of things either coming up this month or which we need o start planning for. First, our nnual auction will be held at the end f this month, March 30 to be exact. e you planning on attending? Running an auction is easy work with enough helpers. Please plan on being at the church (right next to the club) around 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning to help move furniture around and generally get things ready. Help is also needed on check in, moving equipment during the auction, selling food, security and all the other little things that go into making the auction a success.

With all the expenses for the new repeater this year, plus rising costs for such things as postage we need a successful auction this time (unless of course you want higher dues next year), so please do your part. In the meantime, talk it up! Whenever you have a QSO with a non-WARS friend, mention the auction. Remember, check-in time is 10:00 a.m. and the auctioneering will start at 11:00.

Also this month, our Novice Class is scheduled to start. Right now, we don't really have enough people signed up to make it worth while, so it may be cancelled if there is not more interest. If you know of someone who wants to go for their Novice, please let us know. The class is currently scheduled to start Monday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m.

It's also time to start thinking about where we want to hold Field Day this year. Does everyone want to return to the Town Hall once again, or do you have other ideas? Think about it, and we will discuss it at the meetings this month.

Elections

It is time to start thinking about who you would like to see running the club next year. Nomination of officers will be held this month at the March 21 meeting. Election Committee Chairman C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, will take nominations by mail any time up to that meeting as well as during the meeting. If you would like to nominate anyone, including yourself, mail your nomination to C.J. McDonald, 48 Hale Street, Newton, Mass. 02164.

WARS NET

Don't forget that we are still holding the club net every Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. on the new W1TKZ/R 147.63/03. There are still many of you who have never checked in or for that matter even used the repeater at all! Why not give it a try this Sunday. Hope to see you there.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:
March 7, 1985, at 7:30 p.m.
March 21, 1985, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

"New Tickets"

Congratulations to Dan Brevik, KA1MKA, who passed his Advanced class exam during February. Dan also passed the 20 wpm code test but was unable to take the Extra theory because there were not enough tests on hand. He is planning to try for that this month. Good work Dan!

Has anyone else upgraded recently? Please let us know!

ELECTRONICS EXCHANGE

For Sale: Tempo S1 two meter walkie. Fully synthesized, 2 antennas, battery charger, adapter for mobile antenna hookup. $120 or best offer. Call Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, at 653-0641.

Auctions/Flea Markets

March 30: Our own Wellesley A.R.S. auction, held at the Wellesley First Congregational Church, 207 Washington Street, Wellesley. Check-in begins at 10:00 a.m., and the auction at 11:00. Food and drink available. Talk-in on 147.63/03.

April 14: Framingham ARA flea market.

April 27: Montachusett ARA flea market, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 165 Electric Avenue, Fitchburg, Mass. Take Route 2 to South Street exit (Twin City Plaza), then north on South Street to traffic light on Electric Avenue, then left and look for K of C on left. K of C Hall is about 1.5 miles from Route 2. Admission is $1, tables $8. Free parking, refreshments. Doors open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and talk in is on 144.85/145.45 and 146.52.

May 5: The Hampden County Radio Association Flea Market at the West Springfield Elks Lodge. Take the Mass Pike to West Springfield, exit 4, then 1/2 mile south on Route 5. Turn right at Abdow's Restaurant onto Morgan Road. The Elk's Lodge is 3/4 mile on the left. Admission is $1.00, tables are $3.00. Times are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and food is available. Contact Paul Kress, WA1ZKT, at 413-568-8291.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Number 6, dated January 31, 1985:

FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking affecting the VEC program. Responding to petitions requesting that the waiting period for retaking a failed Amateur examination be changed, FCC proposes to eliminate the waiting period entirely, and to allow VECs to decide on a waiting period for their examinations based on their own administrative requirements. The NPRM also proposes to require public notice of volunteer examination sessions only if the sessions are conducted for five or more candidates. This NPRM is designated Docket 85-21. Comments are due by March 7, 1985, reply comments are due by March 22, 1985.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259
VICE PRESIDENT:
David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450
RECORDING SECRETARY:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Allan Bacon, K1BA, 749-4382
TREASURER:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
FUND RAISING:
Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, 242-0341
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:

STATION MANAGER:
Bob Drapeau, KT1K, 883-1132
REPEATER COMMITTEE:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

EDITOR:

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

MINUTES

Meeting of February 7, 1985:

Meeting opened at 7:35 p.m. by N1CPE.

Secretary's report accepted.

Treasurers report accepted. No opposition!

Novice class starts March 4. Tell your friends!

Repeater - Autodial codes distributed - It was suggested that we mail a letter to the departments included in the autodial informing them of the arrangement.

Message Fair starting with setup February 9 at Shoppers World. See you all there.

Bob Drapeau, KT1K, asked for a consensus regarding the purchase of a vertical antenna for the club. He suggested spending about $100 for it, and noted that there was still $95 left in the budget to buy things for the station. It was decided that we did need the antenna, and that Bob should go buy it. No vote was taken, since the money was already in the budget and not a new item.

Keep this date open: May 5 - Charles River Run.

QST and 73 magazines 1977 thru present can be had, contact C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM.

Ken McNair, N1DEZ, suggested that we have some kind of get together in the spring.

Meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

THE WESTLINK REPORT
THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

"Distressed satellite users are reporting an upsurge in inadvertent interference to satellite operations. In many areas of the country, 2 meter operators are working within the 145.800 to 146.000 MHz zone ascribed by gentlemen's agreement to OSCAR use. Mode A uplinks and Mode B downlinks both ocupy this limited territory as a check of spectrum allocations will attest.

"But satellite users may be inadvertently adding to the QRM by themselves conversing in terrestrial QSOs when the satellite(s) are out of view. What...happens is that hams not familiar with OSCARs happen upon the QSOs of the satellite users. The satellite users incorrectly believe that since the satellites are out of view, it's OK to work terrestrial stations. But the casual observer, not knowing this to be special turf, assumes he may proceed with QSOs there as well....We must avoid QSOs in the satellite portions of ALL bands, including 10, 2 and 0.7 meters." From Amateur Satellite Report.

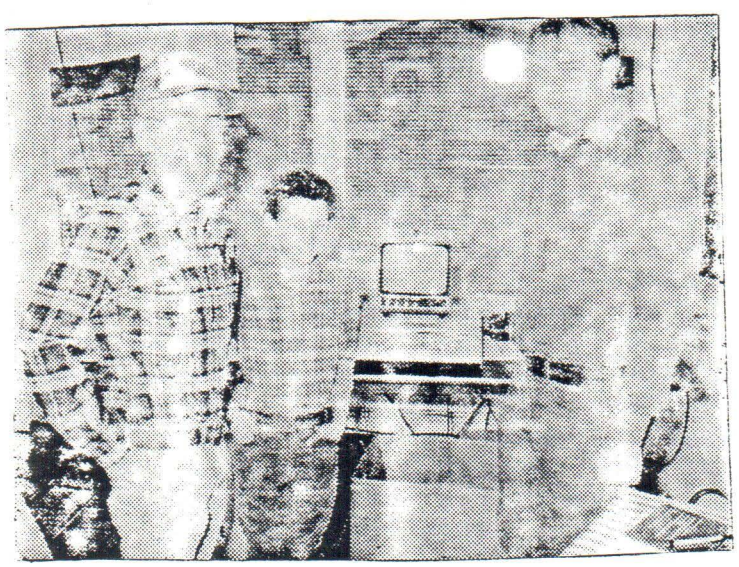
Westlink Report, February 1, 1985

MESSAGE FAIR

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

It was good to see you all at the Message Fair the week of February 9 thru 17. A good time was had by all, but the main thrust of a message fair is messages and we didn't have too many. We originated only 68 messages from Shoppers World.

We started off with a bang, trying to get the antennas up and finding many parts unwilling to cooperate in the chilly weather. All antennas were up, however, around 3:30 p.m. (after starting at 10:00 a.m.!). We had some nice Slow Scan TV thanks to Mort, KA1IU, on the first Saturday and even Packet was in working order. Sunday brought a dead packet board and a few more messages originated.



Part of the message fair crew.

The rest of the week was at night and we entered the continuing melee on the Eastern Mass. 2 Meter Net. There was loads of traffic going to and coming from the Mass. Maritime Training Ship in the Carribean. All in all, most nights that net lasted over an hour! After taking Friday night off, Saturday we returned with a working packet board and lots of traffic to send. This was by far the busies day we spent there. Around 4 p.m. we started taking down all the stuff that it took us five and a half hours the week before to put up. Sunday was the final trip to take stuff out of there.

Special thanks to all the people that came down for a while to help out. They are: WB1BUM, KA1MKA, KA1LDV, K1UR, N1CPF, N1DEZ, N1DDI, N2AWG, N1CPE, WB1BUV, KA1IU, KA1IKW, KA1JWE.

Hamnews

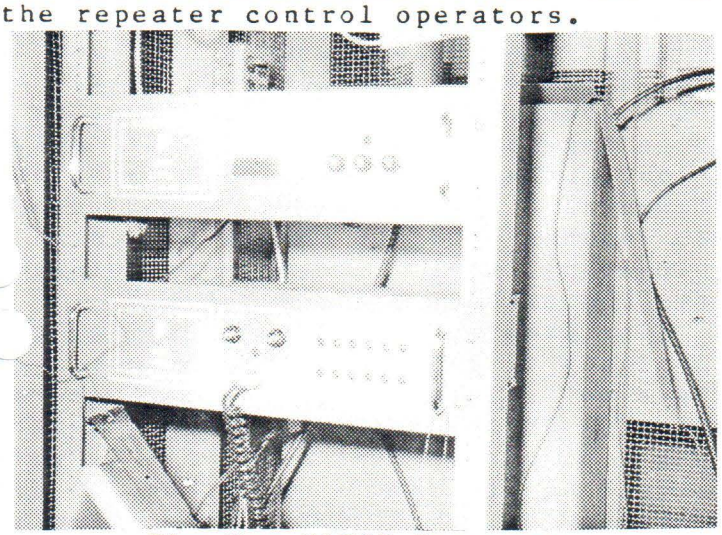
"The Department of Defense shares ARRL's concern over the proliferation of 'anti-ham' zoning ordinances which prohibit effective operation of Amateur Radio stations by limiting antenna heights or restricting accessory uses of residential real property. Continued success of the existing NSF (national security, emergency preparedness) telecommunications plans involving Amateur stations would be severely diminished if state and local ordinances are allowed to prohibit the construction of and usage of effective Amateur transmission facilities." This paragraph opens the Department of Defense (DoD) reply comments in support of PRB-1, the ARRL request for preemptive relief from restrictive antenna ordinances.

The incident in Grenada, the 1983 New Orleans flood, the 1982 hurricane in Hawaii and the Coalinga earthquake are cited as examples of the responsiveness of Amateurs in emergency situations. "The Department of Defense respectfully supports the request of ARRL that the Commission issue a declaratory ruling delineating the limitations of local zonign and other local and state regulatory authority over federally-licensed Amateur Radio facilities."

ARRL Letter, January 31, 19

REPEATER

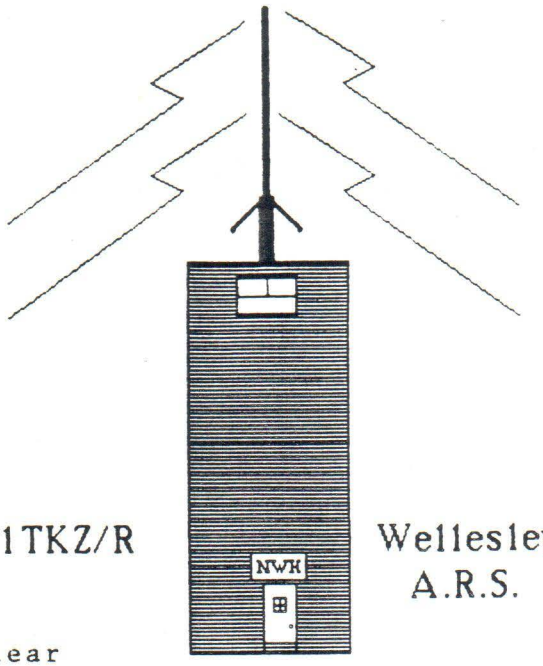
When we bought the new club repeater one of the features we got was the ability to run an autopatch. After some discussion it was decided that we did not want a general usage autopatch but that a system limited to emergency calls to the police and fire departments would be beneficial. The repeater has now been set up to dial all emergency agencies that are within the local calling area of the Newton/ Wellesley Hospital. In addition, if you must report an emergency outside that area you can reach the hospital switchboard and they can make the call for you. You can also reach two of the repeater control operators.



The New W1TKZ Repeater

The procedure for making an emergency autopatch is as follows: Key up the repeater, announce your call and that you are making an autopatch. Drop the carrier momentarily, key up and enter one of the autopatch autodial codes listed below. The full number will be automatically dialed for you. When done with your call, clear the autopatch by hitting #50.

That's all there is to it! You will want to keep this list in your car and remember, this system is for emergency use only. We are currently in a probationary period with the ospital to see if this will work out.



W1TKZ/R Wellesley A.R.S.

#50 Clear
500 Timer Reset
200 Hospital switchboard
201 Wellesley Fire
202 Weston Police
203 Weston Fire and Ambulance
204 State Police, Weston, Turnpike
205 Mass. Civil Defense
206 Newton Police, Fire, Ambulance
207 Waltham Police and Ambulance
208 Waltham Fire
209 MDC Police
210 Needham Police
211 Wellesley Police and Ambulance
212 Needham Fire
213 Boston Police
214 Boston Fire
215 Coast Guard
216 Watertown Police
217 Watertown Fire
218 Brookline Police
219 Brookline Fire
220 Cambridge Police
221 Cambridge Fire
222 Arlington Police
223 Arlington Fire
224 Lincoln Police and Fire
225 Dedham Police
226 Dedham Fire
227 Medford Police
228 Medford Fire and Ambulance
229 Somerville Police and Ambulance
230 Somerville Fire
231 Winchester Police
232 Winchester Fire and Ambulance
235 Skid Schermerhorn, W1TTY
236 C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM

Hearabouts....

Heathkit has announced that they will be taking over sales and manufacturing of the TAPR packet radio board, which is the most popular device currently used for this mode. The Heath HD4040, which will be 90% identical to the current TAPR product will be available in April for $299. Though this is higher than the current TAPR product, it will include a new manual (Heath is well known for providing the finest kit assembly manuals available). It would also seem likely that it would include a case and power supply which was not provided with the TAPR product. Thanks to Dan Brevik, KA1MKA, for researching this for us. Dan should also be the first one in the Boston area with an HD4040 as he has reserved one with the local Heathkit store in Wellesley.

Hamnews

The FCC has released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) concerning repeater coordination. The FCC states that the number of reported instances of Amateur repeaters causing interference to one another in 1984 was more than three times the number recorded in 1983, and that most of the reported cases of Amateur repeater to repeater interference appear to involve one or more non-coordinated repeaters. The NPRM proposed to add definitions of "coordinated repeater", "frequency coordinator", and "harmful interference" to Part 97.3, and to add a new paragraph (h) to Section 97.85 to read: "Where an Amateur station in repeater operation causes harmful interference to the repeater operation of another Amateur Radio station, the two stations are each equally and fully responsible for resolving the interference unless one is coordinated (see 97.3 (k)) and the other is not. Where one repeater is coordinated and the other is not the station with the non-coordinated repeater has primary responsibility to resolve the interference."

The Commission requests comment from the Amateur community on several issues concerning repeaters. The NPRM states "we seek comment on whether we should require an Amateur operator to seek the recommendation of a local frequency coordinator for the input and output frequencies of any repeater located within a Central Metropolitan Statistical Area (CSMA) or a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as set forth in government census documents. We also request comments on whether we should consider alternative methods of frequency coordination. Additionally, we seek comment on whether the voluntary or required use of modern technological innovation (such as the use of narrow-band technologies, ACSB, or tone-operated squelch techniques) is a more appropriate or desirable solution...than the proposed solution. Comments are also sought with regard to whether the FCC should recognize a single national frequency coordinator for the Amateur Radio Service."

The Commission states "During the pendency of this proceeding there will be a moratorium on new repeater operation in CMSA's and MSA's. Only existing repeater operations will be permitted in all CMSA's and MSA's." For purposes of this NPRM, the FCC will presume that a repeater is coordinated if it appears in the next edition of the ARRL Repeater Directory, unless it is proven to the contrary.

Copies of the NPRM, which is designated PR Docket 85-22, are available from HQ for a large SASE with postage for 3 ounces. Comments in this NPRM are due by July 1, 1985, and reply comments are due by September 30, 1985.

ARRL Letter, January 31, 1985

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The ARRL has filed a Petition for Partial Reconsideration in Docket 85-22. The Petition states "Section 97.85 of the Commission's Rules permits operation of Amateur Radio st

tions in repeater operation. No Order as been issued which would hold that rule in abeyance... A Notice of Proosed Rule Making cannot, in and of itself, modify an existing rule... Overall, the suggested moratorium is excessively vague, due to the very nature of repeater operation in the Amateur Service. The reference to 'new' repeaters is inappropriate, inasmuch as repeater operation is not a separate Amateur station but an operating mode of existing Amateur stations. Further, even if the moratorium were to exist as a matter of law, its commencement is uncertain, as it is dependent upon the issuance of the League's Repeater Directory, a date which is somewhat uncertain and unknown to the majority of the Amateur community."

The Petition also claims that the moratorium is "extremely detrimental to the Amateur Radio Service as a matter of policy." In conclusion, the Petition asks the Commission to modify the NPRM to remove any reference to a oratorium on new repeater operation.

Ray Kowalski of the FCC has said hat the moratorium is not the important issue in the NPRM. Kowalski says that the important feature of the NPRM is the proposed addition to Part 97 which specifies that the operator of an uncoordinated repeater which interferes with a coordinated repeater has primary responsibility to resolve the interference.

ARRL Letter, February 14, 1985

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Several actions have come from the FCC recently. Docket 85-23 aims at implementing the remaining frequencies derived from the spectrum charts established at WARC '79. This new docket should not be confused with a different NPRM suggesting early access to the 10, 18, 24 and 902 MHz bands. This docket is concerned with new microwave allocations.

The FCC has acted to issue an Order that deletes the requirement that VECs provide local Commission Field Offices ith 30 days prior notification of upcoming examination sessions. Effective January 29, VECs need only give "adequate public notice" of exam sessions where five or more candidates will be tested.

Another Order issued was approval of a request from the Dayton ARA. This change will simplify the work of a Volunteer Examiner by deleting a great deal of information that a VE was previously required to enter onto every application for exams they administered. Now only the VE's name and callsign are required.

Denied was a request from Gordon Girton, W6NLC, and the Sunnyvale California VEC, Inc. which had sought several changes to Form 610. His petition was denied without comment. Thanks W3BE.

Westlink Report, February 1, 1985

CHUCKLE KORNER

AMATEURS REMINDED OF LAUGH RULES

by N8JR in GEARVAKf, via ARNS

Section 97.45A of the Radio Wireless Rules and Regulations stipulates it quite clearly: "No operator in the Amateur Radio service shall laugh or cause to be laughed at in any natural or normal way during any transmission or sequence of transmissions, except in the following manner: by using the sign 'HI' on continuous wave telegraphy, or the word 'Hi' pronounced as 'HI' in the modes A3, A3A or A3J; or the term "Hardy, Har, Har" on radio teletype transmissions." GEARVAKf observers have noticed several occasions where the term "HI" has been used on radio teletype rather than "HARDY, HAR, HAR," a clear violation of Radio Bureau Rules. We have also heard instances where operators, chiefly young inexperienced ones, will actually laugh on SSB instead of saying "Hi, Hi," or "Hi Hi Hi." The term "HAR," pronounced "Har," is permitted on simplex FM below 146 MHz, but is strictly prohibited on repeaters.

The Spark Gap

WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

211 Washington Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181

FIRST CLASS MAIL

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

PACKET RADIO DEMO

March 7, 1985 at 7:30 p.m.